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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): HIROI et al

Serial No.: 09/986,299

Filed: November 8, 2001

For: Pattern Inspection Method And Apparatus

Group: 2621

Examiner:

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Technology Center 2600

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

March 4, 2002

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the original specification with the attached Substitute Specification.

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

Please replace the original abstract with the attached abstract.